

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

and

SIERRA CLUB,

Intervenor-Plaintiff,

v.

DTE ENERGY COMPANY AND
DETROIT EDISON COMPANY,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.
2:10-cv-13101-BAF-RSW

Judge Bernard A. Friedman

Magistrate Judge R. Steven
Whalen

**JOINT MOTION AND BRIEF FOR FURTHER STAY PENDING
SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS,
AND STATUS REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS**

Pursuant to Local Rule 7.1(a), the Parties jointly move for an approximately one-month stay of this case while they continue to engage in settlement negotiations seeking to resolve this case in its entirety. All Parties—Plaintiff United States of America (“United States”), Defendants DTE Energy Company and Detroit Edison Company (collectively, “DTE”), and Plaintiff-Intervenor Sierra Club—join in this motion.

This joint filing also serves as the Parties’ status report on negotiations, as required by the Court’s order granting the current stay. [ECF No. 248].

In further support of this motion, the Parties state the following:

1. This litigation began in 2010 when the United States filed its complaint and motion for preliminary injunction. On November 23, 2010, Sierra Club's motion to intervene as a plaintiff in this proceeding was granted. The litigation has been to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit twice. The Court granted summary judgment for a second time to DTE on the claim in the original complaint on March 3, 2014 [ECF No. 196], and Plaintiffs again appealed to the Sixth Circuit [ECF Nos. 221, 222]. By judgment dated January 10, 2017, the Sixth Circuit reversed and remanded in a 2-1 decision with three separate opinions. [Case nos. 14-2274, 14-2275, Doc. 40-2]. DTE timely filed a petition for certiorari to the United States Supreme Court, which was denied by order dated December 11, 2017. [See ECF No. 235]. The Sixth Circuit's mandate was issued on December 14, 2017, and was received by the clerk of this Court on the same day. [ECF No. 236].

2. On December 13, 2018, the Court granted the Parties' joint motion to continue the stay of the litigation to pursue settlement negotiations for an additional six months through May 14, 2019. [ECF No. 244]. The Court thereafter granted the Parties' subsequent joint motions to extend the stay for additional time through July 15, 2019. [ECF No. 246, 248]. Since that time, the Parties have made significant progress in settlement discussions. The Parties have

greatly reduced the number of outstanding issues on which substantial disagreements remain, and they are continuing to convene in an attempt to make further progress. A one-month extension of the current stay will allow them to continue their discussions on the outstanding items and to determine whether further discussions would be fruitful. If the Parties agree that further discussions would be fruitful to resolve all the claims before the Court, they anticipate seeking a further extension.

3. The Parties believe that the continuing expense and uncertainty of this expansive litigation favors exploring whether a resolution by agreement can be reached before the parties re-engage in full-blown discovery and trial preparation on multiple, complex claims. Both judicial efficiency and conservation of the Parties' resources favor a further stay while they pursue these settlement negotiations.

4. Therefore, the Parties respectfully request that the Court extend the stay of this litigation through August 23, 2019. The Parties propose that at that time they would provide the Court a status report on negotiations and a recommendation for next steps.

BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF MOTION

For their Brief in Support of their Joint Motion for Stay Pending Settlement Negotiations, the Parties rely upon the reasons and authority set forth in the Motion.

Respectfully submitted, this the 15th day of July 2019.

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